GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6918
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2000
ASYLUM TO HIJACKERS
TUFANI SAROJ

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Canada has given asylum to an Indian, who had hijacked Indian Airlines Aircraft in 1984;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Union Government have lodged any protest in this regard with the Canadian Government;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government of Canada thereto; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) Parminder Singh Saini, one of the hijackers of an Indian Airlines flight in 1984, entered Canada illegally in 1995 after serving ten years in prison in Pakistan. Canadian Immigration authorities detained him and launched deportation proceedings against him. Subsequently, he was ordered to be deported. Saini appealed against the deportation order to the Federal Court on the basis of a pardon that his lawyer procured from the Pakistan authorities. The Federal Court of Canada halted the deportation on the basis of this pardon stating that the applicant has been cleansed of his conviction and that he should not be deported on that ground.

The Government of Canada has decided to appeal against the judgement of the Federal Court and is also reviewing the case to explore other avenues to have Parminder Singh Saini deported.